

# PLANNING AHEAD

## Notes for the Planning and Policy Community

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### Planning Excellence Program (Pep) Initiatives

*Doug Lamont – CECW-PC*

#### Delegation of Approval Authority

The Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) has approved a plan that would allow for certain delegation and approval authority to the MSC Commander for post-authorization decision documents and PCAs. The proposal is based upon an accountability process that employs a checklist-based approach to surface and resolve policy/legal issues through early involvement of the vertical team and to serve in auditing purposes.

EC 1165-2-206, Delegation of Review and Approval Authority for Project Cooperation Agreements on Specifically Authorized Projects, dated 30 January 2004, has been signed by the Director of Civil Works and is available on an HQUSACE [webpage](#). The guidance provides that HQUSACE will develop model agreements for ASA(CW) approval. Once models are approved, MSC Commanders are delegated authority to review and approve those agreements that are in accord with approved models. Substantive deviations or modifications from approved model language would be reviewed and approved by ASA(CW). For agreements that follow the model ASA(CW) reserves the prerogative to sign those of

special significance as determined through advance coordination with the respective HQUSACE RIT before an agreement is executed.

EC 1165-2-205, Delegation of Review and Approval Authority for Certain Post-Authorization Decision Documents has been approved by OASA(CW) and is expected to be published in mid-March. This guidance will set forth procedures providing for delegation of approval authority to MSC Commanders for all post-authorization decision documents that are in accordance with policy. A Project Study Issue Checklist will be the basis for issues to be identified early in the study development process. MSC Commanders will be requested to prioritize staff resources and capability to assure policy and legal compliance, while HQUSACE will refocus its resources and capability to provide upfront and continuous advice, support, training, and guidance to MSCs and districts.

### **Office of Water Project Review**

As part of USACE 2012, the Chief of Engineers established on 14 January 2004 a national project policy review office in Headquarters to provide a strengthened multi-disciplinary HQUSACE team to conduct policy and legal compliance review of decision documents that have not been delegated, and provide early-on support to the MSCs/districts in issue identification and resolution. This office, designated as the Office of Water Project Review, has been established in the Policy and Policy Compliance Division, Directorate of Civil Works.

The team specializes in review expertise in economics, plan formulation, environmental, cost sharing, real estate, law, and engineering/operations policy. The team's early involvement in the study development phase is designed to assure compliance with established Administration and Corps of Engineers policy as projects are being developed. The group has been established to additionally oversee administration of external independent review on controversial and complex projects through contracts with outside experts, subject to availability of appropriations. To assist District and Division Commanders in the early identification and resolution of issues, this office will provide training, lessons learned and other tools to strengthen the policy compliance quality control/quality assurance process. This office will provide vertical and horizontal support to the RITs for policy/legal compliance review, as well as a key link to the OASA (CW) Office of Project Planning and Review. Members of the Office of Water Project Review include:

#### Core Team

Supv. Civil Engineer--Doug Lamont  
Economist--Steven R. Cone (Senior Economist)  
Social Scientist--A. Forester Einarsen (Environmental Team Leader)  
Civil Engineer--James E. Warren (Plan Formulation/Economics Team Leader)  
Economist--Bruce D. Carlson  
Water Resource Planner--John Micik  
Economist--Patricia L. Mutschler  
Hydraulic Engineer--David B. Wingerd  
Program Analyst--Susan B. Ragon  
Secretary (AO)--Victoria Washington  
Ofc Automation Clerk--Crystal E. Catlett (Student)

#### Matrix support – seated with RIT


LRD (Biologist)--Mark E. Matusiak  
NAD (Economist)--Robert M. McIntyre

NAD (Civil Engineer)--Charles L. Ware  
NWD (Social Scientist)--Ellen M. Cummings  
NWD (Archeologist)--Paul Rubenstein  
POD (Civil Engineer)--Kim L. Smith  
SAD (Economist)--Kirby B. Fowler  
SAD (Civil Engineer)--Clifford L. Fitzsimmons  
SPD (Ecologist)--John C. Furry  
SWD (Cost Engineer)--Miguel Jumilla  
SWD (Civil Engineer)--Jim Chang

Counsel Support--Nicholas J. Landau  
(seated with CECW-PC) 

## **Economist and Social Scientist Directory**

*Stuart Davis – CEIWR*


IWR is creating an online directory of economists and social scientists as a first step towards building an economist and a social scientist community of practice (as a sub-community of the Planning Community of Practice). IWR is conducting an e-mail survey to populate the online directory. Approximately 250 Corps employees will be receiving the survey. The economic and social science communities are defined very broadly to include anyone who might be involved in benefit analysis, economic and social impact analysis, financial planning, supplying economic data, or might be involved in review of project economics and social analysis. Respondents are urged to forward the survey to any individuals we may have missed. To encourage knowledge sharing and other communications, and to encourage sub-communities of expertise, respondents will be asked to identify general experience, specific areas of expertise, and to offer short narrative descriptions of their work experience and interest. For privacy reasons, access to the directory will be limited to the Defense Department. Respondents will also be asked to suggest any other initiatives to help build an economist and social scientist community of practice. The directory should be up and running by the Economic and Environmental Conference in April. 

## **Nonstructural Flood Damage Reduction Projects Update**

*Larry S. Buss - CENWO-ED-H*

Nonstructural flood damage reduction is gaining more and more in popularity within the Nation and within the Corps of Engineers. It has truly been an underutilized flood damage reduction tool, but that is rapidly changing. Great opportunities exist with nonstructural measures to solve flood damage problems, realize opportunities, and achieve the Environmental Operating Principles. The Corps of Engineers has maintained a database over the years of nonstructural flood damage reduction projects. The existing [database](#) was last updated in 1999.


The Corps National Nonstructural/Flood Proofing Committee [[NFPC](#)] is now updating this database. In the spirit of a learning organization the database is being updated in order to have current information for the entire Corps to use so we can all share knowledge gained in formulating and implementing nonstructural measures.

The NFPC is asking all to review the existing database. Any changes needed to it to make it current, or to add any new information relative to studies/projects that use nonstructural measures in any extent, should be submitted to Mr. Larry Buss by e-mail at [larry.s.buss@usace.army.mil](mailto:larry.s.buss@usace.army.mil) or by fax at 402-221-3408, whichever is more convenient. 

### **WOTS Workshop on Water Resource Management: A System-Wide Approach To Integrating Watersheds and Reservoir Systems**


The Engineer Research and Development Center's (ERDC) Water Operations Technical Support (WOTS) Program is sponsoring a workshop entitled "Water Resource Management: A System-Wide Approach To Integrating Watersheds and Reservoir Systems." The 2-1/2 day workshop, to be held in Kansas City, MO on 4-6 May 2004, will include a variety of technical presentations on watersheds and reservoirs from a systems perspective: lakes and reservoirs as system integrators; the assessment of watershed, reservoir, and stream and tailwater processes; watershed and in-reservoir enhancement techniques; and Total Maximum Daily Load(s) - Corps interactions. Drs. Steve Ashby and John Hains, Environmental Laboratory, and Dr. Steve Wilhelms, Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory, of the ERDC Waterways Experiment Station will conduct the workshop. A water quality management handbook will be provided on CD to all workshop participants.

The workshop is designed to bring together a multi-disciplinary audience from various stakeholder groups that Corps field offices interact with in system-wide water resource management activities. Participants at previously conducted workshops have included representatives from: Corps of Engineers (Planners, Engineers, Hydrologists, Project Personnel); Local and Regional EPA Officials; Federal and State Soil Conservation Agencies; State Water Pollution Control Agencies; State and Federal Fish and Wildlife Agencies; Hydropower Producers and Power Administrators; Local Lake Associations and Lake and Reservoir Managers; and Municipal Water Associations.

To register for the workshop or for additional information, contact Ms. Laurin Yates at 601-634-3792, Fax 601-634-3424, or by [e-mail](#). Or visit our [web site](#). Please provide your name, organization, mailing address, telephone number, fax number, and e-mail address. Space is limited and registration is on a first come, first served basis. 

## **Instructions for Contributors to Planning Ahead**

This newsletter is designed to improve the communication among all the planners and those we work with throughout the Corps. We hope that future editions will have mostly information and perspective from those of you on the front lines in the districts. We hope that these notes become a forum for you to share your experiences to help all of us learn from each other. We can't afford to reinvent the wheel in each office. We welcome your thoughts, questions, success stories, and bitter lessons so that we can share them on these pages. The articles should be short (2-3 paragraphs) except in some cases where you just have to say more.

- Use MS WORD
- Use "normal" style
- Use Times New Roman font, 11 point
- All text should be left justified with start of each paragraph indented by one tab stop.
- Each article should have short title with only initial letter of each word capitalized
- Following each title should be author's name and organization
- Last line should be contact information – phone number or e-mail address 

## **Subscribing to Planning Ahead**

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That single line of text should be: "subscribe ls-planningahead"

To obtain a 'help' file, send only the word 'help' in the text of the message (nothing in the subject line) and address it to [majordomo@lst.usace.army.mil](mailto:majordomo@lst.usace.army.mil) 

## **Submissions Deadline**

The deadline for material for the next issue is 26 March 2004.

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